

is rounded down to the nearest integer prior to subtracting such product from x_n

[selected from the group consisting of:

- a'
 word.
- (i) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide sequence that has at least 95% identity to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (ii) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence which has at least 95% identity to that of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (iii) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (iv) an isolated polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (v) an isolated polynucleotide which is the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (vi) an isolated polynucleotide obtainable by screening a library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof;
 - (vii) a polynucleotide which is the RNA equivalent of a polynucleotide of (i) to (vi); or a polynucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide].

a²

1/6. (Amended) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide [capable of producing] which produces a polypeptide [of claim 1] comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 when said expression vector is present in a compatible host cell.

2/7. (Amended) A process for producing a recombinant host cell comprising the step of introducing the expression vector of claim 1 into a host cell such that the host cell, under appropriate culture conditions, produces said polypeptide.

a³

4/8. (Amended) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing a recombinant host cell of claim 3 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide and recovering [the] said polypeptide from the culture.

~~5~~ 11. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 [selected from the group consisting of:—

- a³
corel.
- (a) ~~an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence which has at least 95 % identity to SEQ ID NO:3 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:3;~~
 - (b) ~~an isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:3;~~
 - (c) ~~the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:3; or~~
 - (d) ~~an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide which has at least 95 % identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:4].~~

Please add the following new claims:

13. (Newly Added) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 2 which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

a⁴
sub
B'

14. (Newly Added) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 2 which is RNA.

15. (Newly Added) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 2 which is DNA.

a⁵
16. (Newly Added) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

17. (Newly Added) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence that has at least 95 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said polynucleotide sequence may include up to n_n nucleotide alterations over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein n_n is the maximum number of nucleotide alterations and is calculated by the formula

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$$n_n \leq x_n - (x_n \cdot y),$$

in which x_n is the total number of nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 and y has a value of 0.95, wherein any non-integer product of x_n and y is rounded down to the nearest integer prior to subtracting such product from x_n .

18. (Newly Added) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 17 wherein said polynucleotide sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

19. (Newly Added) An isolated polynucleotide that is fully complementary to an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

20. (Newly Added) An isolated polynucleotide obtained by screening a library under stringent hybridization conditions with a probe comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, said stringent hybridization conditions comprising overnight incubation at 42° C in a solution comprising: 50% formamide, 5xSSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA; followed by washing the filters in 0.1x SSC at about 65° C, wherein said polynucleotide obtained comprises at least 50 nucleotide bases.